Ganga Action Plan

3347. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Ganga Action Plan taken up for execution;

(b) what is the total expenditure incurred so far as against the Budgetted provision;

(c) by what percentage the cost of the project has escalated as on date and what is the estimated percentage by which the cost is likely to go up during the next year or so; and

(d) whether performance of Ganga Action Plan has been critically examined, if so, what are the details thereof stating the manner in which Government proposes to complete the task in accordance with the new target;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Ganga Action Plan was started in June, 1986.

(b) An amount of Rs. 311.49 crore has been spent so far against the present sanctioned cost of Rs. 347.22 crores.

(c) The present escalation over the sanctioned cost is 35.5 per cent which is likely to further increase by 15 per cent by the time the project is completed.

(d) The implementation of the Ganga Action Plan is reviewed on a regular basis both by the Central Government and the State Governments. The water quality of the river Ganga is monitored regularly at 27 stations for 42 parameters. The two principal indicators of water quality namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand and Dissolved oxygen are within the prescribed norms.

Commitment at RIO Conference

3348. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the State Pollution Control Boards in an effort to tackle effectively the challenging responsibility emerging out of our commitment at RIO conference;

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken to strengthen the State and Central Pollution Control Boards;

(c) whether a fresh legislation or amendment to the existing legislation on Pollution and environment is proposed to be made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The review of the State Pollution Control Boards is a continuing exercise of the Government. Strengthening of the Boards is routinely done through funding by Government and under bilateral programmes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Toxic and ecologically damaging pesticides

3349. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that highly toxic and ecologically damaging pesticides like Aldrin are currently in use; and

(b) what steps Government are being taken to effect immediate ban on such pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND